

Focus School Data Reference Sheet



This Reference Sheet will serve as an easy to understand reference to common misunderstandings on Focus School Determinations. Districts should use this not only a reference for district-level personnel but school-level personnel as well especially those schools competing in the Focus Grant Competition.

Focus Schools are the 10 percent of schools identified through the following three pathways in order:

Focus Pathway 1:

High schools with an average graduation rate less than 60 % that have not otherwise been identified as "Priority"

Focus Pathway 2:

Schools with any subgroup with a success rate less than 5%

Focus Pathway 3:

Schools with the largest within school gaps between comparison groups

Determining Pathway 2 Focus Schools:

Step 1: Calculate a Success Rate for each subgroup in each school.

Subgroups are:

White, Black, Hispanic, Native American, Asian, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Limited English Proficient, Non-Limited English Proficient, Students with Disabilities, Non-Students with Disabilities, Economically Disadvantaged, Non-Economically Disadvantaged

$$\text{Focus Success Rate} = \frac{\text{\#Proficient/Advanced Students in Math + Reading/Language Arts + Science + Algebra I + English II + \# of HS Graduates}}{\text{\# Tested Students in Math + Reading/Language Arts + Science + Algebra I + English II + \# Students in HS Graduation Cohort}}$$

Step 2: Schools with any subgroup with a success rate less than 5% are identified as Focus.

Determining Pathway 3 Focus Schools:

Step 1: A success rate is calculated for each comparison group in each school.

Comparison groups are:

- ALL vs. African American Black/Hispanic/Native American (BHN)
- Non-Limited English Proficient vs. Limited English Proficient
- Non-Students with Disabilities vs. Students with Disabilities
- Non-Economically Disadvantaged vs. Economically Disadvantaged

$$\text{Focus Success Rate} = \frac{\text{\#Proficient/Advanced Students in Math + Reading/Language Arts + Science + Algebra I + English II + \# of HS Graduates}}{\text{\# Tested Students in Math + Reading/Language Arts + Science + Algebra I + English II + \# Students in HS Graduation Cohort}}$$

Step 2: Calculate the gap between the success rates of the four comparison groups

For example: ALL students success rate is 60% - BHN success rate is 40% = 20% Gap between ALL vs. BHN

Step 3: Weight the size of each gap by the percentage of students in the underperforming subgroup

For example: 50% of all students are BHN. The 20% gap x 50% weight = 10% weighted gap

Focus School Data Reference Sheet



Step 3: Determine Gap Index

Average the weighted gaps to arrive at a gap index that can be used as a point of comparison across schools

Step 4: Identify schools with the largest Gap Index

In total, only 10% of schools will be identified as Focus including those identified with Focus Pathway 1 and Focus Pathway 2. 10% of all of the schools equals 167 schools. 1 has been identified as Focus Pathway 1, and 3 schools have been identified Focus Pathway 2. This means 163 schools must be identified using Focus Pathway 3 based on the gap index.

Making sense out of my Focus Gap Index Data

Key Data	Focus Path 3 Gap Index	Gap Total	Eligible Gaps	Weighted Gap Ethnicity	Weighted Gap ED	Weighted Gap SWD	Weighted Gap LEP
What does it mean?	Average of all weighted gaps	Sum of all Weighted Gaps in the school	Number of comparison groups with gaps	Gap between success rates of All and BHN students weighted by the % of BHN students	Gap between success rates of Non-ED and ED students weighted by the % of ED students	Gap between success rates of Non-SWD and SWD students weighted by the % of SWD students	Gap between success rates of Non-LEP and LEP students weighted by the % of LEP students

Supporting Focus Schools in the Focus Grant Application Process

On the Accountability Application, district administrators will find data sets that will help focus schools identify gaps to address in their focus school application. **Districts should provide focus schools with the following data for their particular schools:**

1. Focus Gap Index Data File
2. From the LEA School Accountability Determination Data File
 - a. Focus Pathway3 Data tab
 - b. FocusDataSuppressed tab
3. LEA School Level Accountability Data: 2010, 2011, 2012

Common Misunderstandings

My school hit my Annual Measureable Objectives for Gap Closure, so how are we a Focus School?

Under the ESEA Waiver, Tennessee has two systems of accountability that measure performance at the district level and the school level.

At the District Level:

- LEAs are measured against their performance on their own Annual Measureable Objectives (AMOs).
- AMOs are set for individual subjects
- AMOs are set for achievement and gap closure
- While school AMOs are set to ensure the LEA can meet its AMOs, schools are not identified based on the AMOs for individual subjects

In contrast, at the School Level:

- Schools are measured relative to other schools in the state
- Subjects are grouped together to form success rates
- Focus schools are identified for gap closure using a gap index of all eligible weighted gaps based on success rates

**Focus School Data
Reference Sheet**

